

_____ means for transmitting data indicative of a status of said appliance from said monitoring means to a facility physically remote from the appliance and ~~the appliance monitoring means~~ said integrated unit, the integrated unit being operably configured to monitor the performance of said appliance while operating in one of said user-selectable modes.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 in which the means for monitoring said appliance further comprises:

a data processing and storage means; and

means for transmitting data from said appliance to said data processing and storage means.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 in which the means for transmitting information from said data processing and storage means to said facility comprises a phone modem.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 in which one of said user-selectable modes is a DIAGNOSTIC mode, said integrated unit having the capability with said integrated unit operating in the DIAGNOSTIC mode of displaying a message reporting the status of said appliance.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5-1 in which:

said integrated unit comprises a module comprising a player for a disc with laser readable data stored thereon;

said integrated unit being operative in one of said ~~multiple~~user-selectable modes of operation to read data from said disc and communicate the retrieved data to a person using said integrated unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~5-1~~ in which said integrated unit has a screen and an INTERNET mode of operation in which a user-actuatable means is available to establish a connection to the Internet, said integrated unit having means for displaying information obtained from an Internet site on said screen.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~5~~1:
in which said integrated unit comprises a television with a screen;
said system further comprising a user-actuatable means for selecting operation of said system in a television viewing mode.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~5-1~~ which comprises a remote control for selecting an operation mode of said integrated unit, said remote control having a separate, dedicated control for selecting each operating mode of said appliance.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~5-1~~ in which said integrated unit is ~~so constructed~~operably configures such that, when operation of said unit is switched from one of said modes to a different mode, operation of said integrated unit in said one mode will resume at the port where operation of the integrated unit in said one mode was interrupted.

12. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:
~~an appliance; and~~
an integrated unit for monitoring ~~said an~~ appliance, said integrated unit comprising a screen and an appliance control and feedback interface operably connected to the appliance;

said integrated unit having an operating system operably configured to power up said integrated unit to display a message on said screen when a fault that arises in said appliance is received by the appliance control and feedback interface.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising

an appliance connected to a power line; and

an integrated unit for monitoring said appliance, said integrated unit having a power line modem operably connected to the power line ;

said integrated unit having a screen and an operating system ~~capable of causing operably configured to cause~~ a display message indicative of a fault in said appliance ~~being to be displayed on said screen when said integrated unit is powered up~~ in response to said fault having an associated priority exceeding a predetermined level.

15. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

an appliance connected to a power line; and

a monitoring unit operably connected to said appliance via the power line, said appliance comprising a sensor for monitoring a parameter indicative of the performance of said appliance;

said monitoring unit comprising:

means for sampling the parameter available from said sensor at periodic intervals;

means for storing said parameter in said monitoring unit; and

means for comparing the stored parameter with reference data such that a problem associated with the appliance is identified if said appliance fails.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15 in which said parameter is stored in a FIFO file, oldest data being replaced with newest data after the file is filled.

17. (Previously Presented) A system comprises:
an appliance;
a supervisory unit operably connected to the appliance; and
means for transmitting to said supervisory unit status information on the appliance and for transmitting one of a plurality of priorities associated with the status information;
said supervisory unit comprising a screen and an operating system for displaying on said screen a message reflecting the status information of said appliance, the operating system displaying said message on said screen based upon said one of the priorities associated with the status information.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 in which:
said supervisory unit comprises an electrically powered display device in which said screen is incorporated and means for turning said display device on and off; and
the operating system of said supervisory unit is perably configured to turn said display device on and to display said message if the status information is received when said display device is turned off.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 in which:
the operating system of said supervisory unit comprises an electrically operated display device in which said screen is incorporated; and the operating system of said supervisory unit is operably configured to display said message when said display device is subsequently turned on if said status information is received when the display device is turned off.